



Royal United Services Institute
of Victoria Inc.

Promoting National Security and Defence

A Constitutional Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

Patron: The Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC
Governor of Victoria



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RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

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LUNCHTIME ADDRESS

Defence Plaza – 661 Bourke Street

**1200 – Auditorium One
Thursday, 26 September 2013**

Dr Jim Wood, RFD, ED

***Soldiers from the Wars returning –
from Shell Shock to PTSD***

Dr Jim Wood is a distinguished author, teacher and military historian. He served for 37 years as a citizen soldier, much with the 3rd Division, and is an expert on army mobilisation. Perhaps his best known book is *The Forgotten Force: The Australian Military Contribution to the Occupation of Japan 1946-1952*.

Jim Wood has represented the interests of service personnel by oral and written submissions to eight federal parliamentary and official inquiries into a wide range of defence, military and educational issues. He is a Vice-Patron of 'Military History and Heritage Victoria', and a long-time member of RUSI VIC.

**Time: 11.30 Tea/coffee
12.00 Address**

Admission: Members and Guests: \$5.00

For security reasons please advise the Office of your attendance and the names of your guests by email to martin.holme@defence.gov.au or phone 9282 5918 by 5pm Tuesday 24 September. These names are provided to Security to issue Access Passes. If your name is not on the list you will experience a delay in gaining access.

Remember to bring a photo ID with you.

Cyberlinks

RUSI AUST (inc Victoria)	www.rusi.org.au
RUSI Whitehall	www.rusi.org
Dept of Defence	defence.gov.au
Aust Strategic Policy Institute	www.aspi.org.au
Australia Defence Association	www.ada.asn.au
RAAF Assoc 'Williams Foundation	www.williamsfoundation.org.au
Defence Reserves Association	www.dra.org.au
Defence Force Welfare Association	www.dfwa.org.au
Military History and Heritage Victoria	www.mhhv.org.au
Department of Veteran's Affairs	www.dva.gov.au
Shrine of Remembrance	www.shrine.org.au

Captain Martin Holme

The highlight, since the publication of the last Newsletter, has been the visit of our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria. The Governor officially declared open our new premises and Library, and unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

His Excellency had tea with Council Members and inspected the Library, with Honorary Librarian, Brian Surtees leading the way! He expressed great appreciation of the aims of the Institute and for what it was achieving. He took much interest in, and was most impressed by, the library collection.

The Governor later toured the Barracks, which he had never before visited.

There have been four Lunchtime Addresses since the last publication, all of excellent value. Andrew Kilsby, Military and Heritage Historian, spoke about the first HMAS Melbourne; Brigadier Gary Hogan gave an entertaining and thought-provoking talk on Indonesian/Australian Defence relations; Brigadier Mike Arnold spoke on the Battle of Basrah (2008) and Major General Mark Kelly enlightened us on the role of the Repatriation Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs. These occasions were well attended and our Members posed some interesting and challenging questions to the speakers.

We encourage Members to try to come to these Addresses, and of course encourage friends to come as well – they are always interesting and of great value.

I have just returned from three weeks leave in Indonesia (Jakarta and the island of Lombok). I would very much like to thank Councillor Neville Taylor who stood in for me during my absence. He did a marvellous job.

Future Program Dates

31 October Lunchtime Address at Defence Plaza –
BRIG Mike Annett – COMD 4 Brigade

4 Brigade – from OPGEN to FORGEN

Note: This Address will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting at 1145hrs.

12 November Annual Luncheon at Anglis Restaurant
CAPT Martin Holme

Maltese Nights and Benghazi Blues

28 November Lunchtime Address at Defence Plaza –
Professor Marilyn Lake, Monash University
The Militarisation of Australian History

10 December Christmas Drinks – Victoria Barracks

Vale

We record with deep regret the passing of:

LTCOL J. (John) T. Durbin
BRIG W.H. ('Mac') Grant OAM RFD
SGT J. (James) Heyward
LT J. (Jim) D. Sutherland

New Members

Since our last issue we welcome the following new Members:

Mr Michael Clark; Mrs Amy Heyward; Mr B.P. Walters;
CAPT Greg Yorke CSC RANR

Geelong Branch Notes

The Annual General Meeting of the Geelong Branch was held on Sunday July 17, and MAJ Ian Barnes OAM RFD RD was re-elected President for 2013-2014.

The next Dinner Meeting, one of the three annual formal evenings being Ladies Night, is to be held at The Geelong Club, 74 Brougham Street, Geelong on Monday September 19 with the Guest Speaker Mrs Helen Trigg who will address the subject of Naval Cadets in the RAN.

The evening commences at 1830 for Dinner at 1900. The cost is \$ 35 per head with beverages available at Club prices and as this event is a formal occasion, dress is either Mess Dress, Black Tie or Lounge Suit with miniatures being worn.

Bookings are required to be made – contact Mrs Margaret Barnes on 03 5243 9569.



MAJGEN Jim Barry with Councillors MAJGEN Ian Freer and LTCOL Neville Taylor after the Plaque unveiling.

From The President: Commander Warren Kemp RFD, RANR



It was a great honour to welcome our Patron, His Excellency The Governor, The Honourable Alex Chernov, AC, QC, on his first visit to the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria. The proposal was made by our secretary, Captain Martin Holme, that a most suitable way to celebrate the move to our new rooms would be to invite our Patron to make a formal visit and declare open our new premises.

The visit took place on the morning of Tuesday 28th May, when I was joined by several Councillors and senior members of the Institute to welcome His Excellency, who was most interested in our premises and a short tour of the library conducted by our Librarian, Flight Lieutenant Brian Surtees, RAF. He was also very interested to meet our Intern, Brant Johnston, conversing about his interests and activities at RUSI and at Deakin University. The time passed quickly and as he had not previously been to Victoria Barracks, he was taken on a conducted tour by Brigadier Peter Daniel CSC, one of our Vice Patrons., and the visit concluded with a light lunch in the Officers' Mess

Our relationships with other tertiary educational institutes have progressed, as we have had visits from Professor Timothy Lynch from the University of Melbourne, Professor Damien Kingsbury from Deakin University and also Dr Cai Wilkinson, who is the supervisor of our Intern, Brant Johnston. These people are senior academic staff from their respective institutions and each was suitably impressed with the standard and extent of our defence library. They all stated that our collection would be a very useful adjunct to their study programmes and that they would keep our new Intern Programme in mind, so I look forward to increased co-operation in the future.

Our secretary, Captain Martin Holme, was away for three weeks during August while visiting his family and taking a holiday in Indonesia. I asked one of our Councillors, Lieutenant Colonel Neville Taylor, RFD, to be the acting secretary during this time and he continued the office

duties to my entire satisfaction, in addition to his usual voluntary work in the library. Our Secretary has now returned refreshed and he seems to be quite pleased that there is not a pile of work waiting in his in-tray!!

There are relatively few Royal United Service Institutes in the world and as we have close contact with the other six in Australia, I thought that closer relationships with some of the others may be desirable. With this in mind, a few months ago I wrote to the President of our parent RUSI in Whitehall, but so far have not had a response.

I also wrote to the President of RUSI Vancouver Island, Canada, Brigadier General Donald Macnamara, and received a very friendly and positive reply. One of our councillors Lieutenant Commander Roger Buxton, CD, RCN, visited his homeland last month and was welcomed by General Macnamara at a meeting with their new President, Major General Ed Fitch. We have agreed to exchange newsletters and other information such as the details of future Addresses, but more importantly, we shall then be in a position to welcome their members who may be visiting Melbourne. I would request any of our members who may have Canadian connections or who propose to visit Vancouver to speak to Commander Buxton, so that he can add your details to the database.

On Monday, 17th June I was a guest at the Geelong Branch Annual Dinner held at the Geelong Club. This gave me the opportunity to speak about the activities and progress of RUSI Victoria during the last year.

On 4th September I represented RUSI VIC at the Battle for Australia Commemoration at the Shrine. This is an important occasion to educate the 1200 students who attended about the life and times of their forefathers and to keep alive the memories of a difficult and dangerous period of Australia's history.

Our most important activity, the Monthly Address series, has continued most satisfactorily under the chairmanship of Colonel Marcus Fielding. We have had four interesting addresses since the last newsletter and for those unable to attend, the details are contained in the Secretary's message.

The Annual Meeting of RUSI Australia, the National Council, is to be held in Brisbane on 18th -20th September, when the National Executive and Presidents of RUSIs in each of the States meet to consider national matters and to advise and support the individual constituent bodies with any problems that they may have. The National Council does not direct the State activities, as each State RUSI is an independent sovereign body.

Once again, I look forward to meeting you in the library, particularly if you have not visited since we moved to our new premises in H Block, and also at our next address on 26th September at the Defence Plaza.

Yours Aye,
Warren

My RUSI of Victoria Internship

By Brant Johnston

For the past four months I have been interning for the RUSI of Victoria doing a number of jobs for them and in return gaining valuable experience and knowledge. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to myself and the work I have been conducting at RUSI.

First, a little bit about myself. I am a second year undergraduate student at Deakin University studying for a Bachelor of International Studies. This was not my original university degree. I began my university life studying architecture at RMIT until I realised my interest in the defence force, national security and intelligence as well as international affairs greatly outweighed my passion of design. I would find myself often researching the ADF rather than listening to my lecturer, so I dropped out and applied for my current degree at Deakin. This has proven to be one of the best decisions I've made to date. I now study four majors; International Relations, Mandarin, Middle Eastern Studies and Language and Cultural Studies.

When I graduate I know I want a job in the defence and national security arena but I am confused to which one job will suit me best. I want to enter the defence force as either a Maritime Warfare Officer (previously Seaman Officer) or an Air Force Intelligence Analyst – Operational Intelligence (formally signals intelligence-linguist). However equal to this is my desire to enter the Defence Intelligence Organisation as an analyst. I am hoping my time at RUSI will help me form a decision.

I started my internship at RUSI on May 6th 2013 and it will end in November, just before I leave to commence an intense language course in Nanjing, China that will run for almost two months. When I arrive back in Australia I may return to RUSI as a volunteer as my internship so far has been extremely rewarding.

I have worked on several projects for the RUSI of Victoria, starting from the humble beginnings of filing their archives to re-designing their website and conducting a set of interviews to be combined into a book for future reference. My first role was to reorganise and file the institute's vast archives. Unfortunately after the move the Institutes archives were in a fine mess and I have to admit I was slightly daunted by the task of having to organise the lot. However as I worked my way along I got to read a lot of very interesting articles and documents from battle plans to a letter home from a sailor in WWII writing his final goodbyes to his mum. The vast amount of interesting documents was immense and I recommend to everyone having a look at the archives upon their next visit to the Institute. Once this was complete Major General Mike O'Brien introduced me to a pile of diary entries from POW's at Changi and I began typing them into digital form for a book he is planning.

Next I began a project we labelled '*Life in the ADF; An Oral History.*' This project is effectively a range of interviews with current and former members of the Defence Force in an effort to establish what life in the ADF is like and how it has changed over time. These interviews will be transcribed and collated into a book for future generations to refer to and for the youth who are interested in joining and needing more information. I have to admit I was overwhelmed with the response to this and it promises to be an incredible resource once finished.

Almost the entire time I've been here I have also been working on a new website for the Institute. It was one of my main

goals when I started here to leave the Institute with a better, more attractive and user friendly website. The new website I have been working on will be able to attract young university students and house a member only section where there will be videos and recordings of address's should a member miss one. It will hold the newsletter so you can catch up online as well as a calendar to inform you of all upcoming events and it will also house numerous documents and analysis on defence and national security issues. I am very excited by what this website can offer the Institute and its members.

My time at RUSI has been incredibly useful for me as it has developed my knowledge and my skill set exponentially. I have been able to learn an immense amount on the Australian Defence Force as well as the other organisations that make up the national security group. I have unfortunately only been able to attend one lunch time address and I thank all those members who introduced themselves to me, you made me feel incredibly welcome. I hope to attend all the future addresses until November and meet as many members as possible.

News from RUSI- Vancouver Island

I spent the month of July in British Columbia, mostly in the Victoria area, and our president Warren Kemp had written to the president of RUSI (Vancouver Island) hoping that I would be able to meet with him to discuss closer relations between our Institutes.

I met president Major-General Ed Fitch (Ret) and past president Brigadier-General Don Macnamara (Ret).

We had an interesting discussion about the only just announced decision for the Canadian Army to return to the pips and crowns rank insignia they had been obliged to give up for Air Force style stripes on the unification of the Canadian Forces in 1968. This decision was rather surprising as it is unlikely that any presently serving officer ever wore pips 45 years ago! The question was posed: was this de-integration or de-unification? The past three years have seen the 'Royal' restored to the Canadian Navy and Air Force, the executive curl restored to the naval uniform and the naval ensign flown as an ensign (Commonwealth style) rather than previously as a jack (USN style).

We discussed the problems facing our organisations and possible ways of exchanging information and developing means of assisting visiting members. Both RUSIs have the same problem of an ageing and declining membership with few recently retired persons joining. Similarly, both Institutes hold well attended lectures with excellent speakers.

As we left the table Ed Fitch asked that if our council made suggestions for exchanging information and liaison between branches, he would take them up with the Council of RUSI (VI).

Roger Buxton

The United States Military Academy West Point – Citadel of Democracy

By Air Commodore Mike Rawlinson (Ret'd)



During a holiday to the United States in June I took the opportunity to visit the United States Military Academy at West Point on the Hudson River 50 miles upstream from Manhattan. It was during the summer break and there were not any cadets in residence. The Citadel on the west bank is clearly visible from the main rail line on the east bank, but there is no public transport to the site.

The history, the buildings and the commanding site on the Hudson River were all most impressive. West Point is sited at the point where the river narrows and makes a sharp bend. Canons in fortified positions atop the cliffs at West Point controlled access to the upper Hudson River. During the War of Independence (1775-1783) they were complemented by a huge chain anchored across the river.

The Academy skyline is dominated by the 1910 gothic revival Cadet Chapel (Protestant) which hosts the largest chapel pipe organ in the world. Remembering that America is a secular country 'under God', there are places of worship for all religions.

The buildings are clothed in the history of America's wars: the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, wars with the British (Canada), French, American Indians, Mexican, Spanish, Philippines, WWI, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Iraq. Nowhere is this more so than in the cemetery where lie buried graduates and their immediate families. Famous Generals from Custer to Swartzkopf lie alongside officers caught short at the start of their careers.

In the old Cadet Chapel plaques commemorate the names of the generals who served during the revolution. One plaque bears the rank of Major General, birthdate 1740, but no name. This remembers the traitor Benedict Arnold who conspired to aid a British attack on the fort at West Point when it was under his command.

West Point and Australia have a shared connection to Polish national hero Tadeusz Kosciuszko for whom

explorer Paul Strzelecki named Australia's highest mountain in 1840. Kosciuszko was a professional military engineer and served as a colonel in the Continental Army. As well as distinguishing himself in numerous battles, from 1778 – 80, he designed and improved fortifications at the West Point stronghold. There is an imposing statue of him at the top of the cliff facing down the river to New York.

My interest in West Point arises from it being the model for RMC Duntroon, which later flowed through to the RAAF Academy and our Defence Force Academy.

The West Point story I found most interesting was the debate at the highest level of American politics concerning the creation of a Military Academy and its relationship with the preservation of democracy and freedom in the fledgling republic. This is well documented in Simon Schama's book *The American Future*, which has a section on 'American War' partly themed on West Point.¹

Following the successful conclusion of the War of Independence, General George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, espoused the need for a training college for professional military officers. The founding fathers of the republic agreed that if there was to be a Military Academy the site would be West Point, but there was doubt over the availability of funding, and many questioned the desirability of creating a professional military class.

George Washington had impeccable democratic credentials and commitment to American Republicanism. By voluntarily stepping down and disbanding his army when the war was won, he permanently established the principle of civilian supremacy in military affairs. His constant reiteration of the point that well-disciplined professional soldiers counted for twice as much as erratic amateurs helped overcome the ideological distrust of a standing army.

The main protagonists in the Military Academy debate were Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson is well known as the drafter of the Declaration of Independence and the third US President. A classical liberal, Jefferson and those of like mind, were wary of creating a standing army that could overthrow the government, and could also increase the readiness of the republic to become involved in wasteful European wars.

Their preferred alternative was to maintain state militias which could be called-up as required. They were also wary of European experience where the officer corps was drawn from the aristocracy, and represented an entrenched officer class that was opposed to democracy. There was also the threat to republican democracy posed by a populist general in the mould of Caesar or Cromwell.

¹ Schama S., *The American Future : A History*, The Bodley Head, London, 2008.

The case for a military academy was led by Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton was a colonel in the Continental Army and Chief of Staff to General Washington. A political conservative, he was one of the most influential interpreters and promoters of the Constitution, and the founder of the first American political party. In the new government under President Washington Hamilton was appointed Secretary of the Treasury and was the founder of the nation's financial system. He resigned from office in 1795. Later he was defacto Commander (C of staff to an ailing Washington) of the Army raised against the French in 1798 -1800 quasi War. As a Major General he was the Senior Officer of the US Army from Dec 1799-Jun 1800.²

Hamilton maintained that America could not become a great power without an army, and a core of officers needed to be educated in the sciences of war – engineering and artillery. He designed a four year course for the military academy, two years of academics and two years of corps training. Regular officers were to be circulated through the Academy as instructors, and the Commandant was to be an officer with war service.

The United States Military Academy West Point was founded in 1802 under Thomas Jefferson's Presidency in the full knowledge of Napoleon Bonaparte's coup d'etat to become First Consul of France in 1799.³

The compromise reached at West Point was for a mini-university that would train a professional officer corps in the sciences of war, and be available to instruct state militias. Military engineering would be complemented with civil engineering and Army engineers would be available for nation building projects: the construction of canals, dams, roads, railways and harbours. Cadets would be drawn from all social classes and promoted on merit. They would be inculcated as guardians of the republic and sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States including allegiance to the elected President in the role of Commander-in-Chief.

Contrary to Hamilton's recommendations, Jefferson appointed a mathematician with no military experience as the first Superintendent. The cadet uniform was deliberately chosen as unadorned grey, to discourage adventurism.

The West Point motto of Duty, Honour, Country reflects Jefferson's ideals. Duty at the highest level means duty in defending the constitution – defending the freedoms of the democratic republic.

Since 1802 there have been military coups and military dictatorships in Europe, Asia and Africa. In particular

the countries of Central and South America have seen innumerable military regimes, and in early July 2013 there was a military coup in Egypt. While not alone, it has been the Anglosphere countries that have maintained their democracies free of military intervention.

In the United States many West Point graduates have held high civilian public office following their military service, and two have been President of the United States as civilian representatives of major political parties: Ulysses S. Grant (Class of 1843) and Dwight D. Eisenhower (Class of 1915).

With possibly only one exception, West Point graduates have remained true as guardians of democracy in the United States.

General Douglas MacArthur (Class of 1903) – former Superintendent of USMA (1919-1922), when Supreme Commander Korea showed a 'lack of respect' for the authority of President Truman and was dismissed from his command. MacArthur's 1978 Biography by William Manchester is suitably entitled *American Caesar*.

Thomas Jefferson's concerns for democracy in the presence of a large standing army are echoed in President Eisenhower's Farewell Address to the Nation on 17 January 1961 in which he warns of the danger to democracy of the military/industrial complex.

*This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence — economic, political, even spiritual — is felt in every city, every statehouse, every office of the federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society. In the councils of government, **we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex.** The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists, and will persist.*

We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals so that security and liberty may prosper together.

Within this context the West Point 'Guardians of Democracy' have done very well indeed. Both Jefferson and Hamilton have reason to be pleased.

² In 1804 Hamilton was mortally wounded in a duel with Vice President Aaron Burr.

³ Napoleon Bonaparte was an artillery officer and graduate of the Ecole Militaire (1785). In 1804 Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of France.

Mike Rawlinson is a graduate of the RAAF Academy. He was the Inaugural Chief Instructor at the Australian Defence Force Academy, and in 1989-90 Commandant of the RAAF College.

The Battle of Basrah (2008): A Glimpse into the Future of Warfare

BRIG Michael Arnold, CSC, ADC

(a shortened version of the address delivered on 25 July 2013)

Introduction

My presentation is on the Battle of Basrah which commenced on Easter Sunday - 23 March and continued to April 08. At the time I was DA, Baghdad and halfway through a PhD thesis. The thesis was international relations based, specifically about a future Australian defence policy. Its key premise was based on Professor Philip Bobbitt's proposition that the nation-state is evolving into a new entity – what he called a market-state.

A market-state is a liberal democratic state with an advanced economy in the era of globalisation. This is an abridged version of BRIG Arnold's presentation. The full text with more information on the market-state will be available on the RUSI-AUST Website. (Ed)

It is my belief that Australia like the United States, Britain, Japan and most other developed states is evolving into a market-state. And this has major strategic consequences. I used the Battle of Basrah as a case study within the thesis to show how strategic commanders of market-states will have to conduct military campaigns in the conflicts of the information age.



Background

Multi-National Force, Iraq's (MNF-I), General David Petraeus commanded the Coalition response to PM Nouri al-Maliki's initiation of 'Operation Charge of the Knights' – the 'Battle for Basrah' in March-April 2008. This operation's aim was to take back control of the southern city of Basra from the Jaysh al Mahdi militia and assorted criminal gangs. The conflict spread quickly from Basrah

to Baghdad and evolved into a battle for the credibility of both the leadership of Nouri al-Maliki and the Iraqi Security Forces.

The Battle for Basrah (March-April 2008)

The so-called 'surge' was the last role of dice by the Bush Administration to salvage the deteriorating situation in Iraq. Its aim was to provide sufficient combat power to the Coalition forces to implement a new counterinsurgency strategy whose focus (centre of gravity) was the provision of security to the people of Iraq. By quelling the internecine conflict that threatened to become an all-out civil war, and degrading the potency of the broad array of extremist groups in the country it was hoped that the nascent Iraqi government would have sufficient time to reach a political accommodation between Sunni, Shia and Kurdish political factions. Moreover, spread its influence and solidify its grip on the fractious Iraqi state. It was also hoped that the relative security would act as a catalyst to kick-start the economy, foster a growth in employment and improve basic services such as the provision of power sewerage and water. Likewise, prodigious effort went into growing and training the Iraqi security forces (ISF) to become capable of containing and ultimately, defeating the insurgency. General David Petraeus, one of the authors of the United States Army and Marine Corps 2006 *Counterinsurgency Field Manual* FM 3-24, was selected to put his theories into practice and assumed command of Multi-national Forces, Iraq (MNF-I) in January 2007.

In the lead up to this period, the so-called 'Sunni Awakenings' had resulted in Sunni tribal sheiks throwing in their lot with the Americans against AQI. It was during this time the 'surge' reached its zenith and the formal rapprochement with Shiite radical group, Jaysh al Mahdi (JAM), was severely tested. AQI was very much on the back foot. Its footprint in the major Iraqi urban centres was reduced dramatically and by April 2008, Mosul was the last city in which the organisation had any degree of freedom to manoeuvre. The flow of foreign fighters — its lifeblood — transiting through Syria was reduced to a trickle. The organisation's ability to transmit its message was degraded significantly and while it was still capable of conducting so-called spectacular attacks throughout much of Iraq, the frequency of these had attenuated dramatically during the period.

In February 2008 the leader of JAM, Muqtada al Sadr renewed the ceasefire that had been in existence for the preceding six months. JAM was the major Shia militia group with a strong presence in the southern and central provinces, including Baghdad. It had major strongholds in the southern port city of Basrah and the Sadr City region of Baghdad. Sustaining the truce was difficult for JAM's leadership due to the Coalition's concerted campaign against the leadership of the so-called JAM 'Special Groups'. Many of the Special Forces, were in fact criminal gangs using the JAM moniker as cover for their nefarious activities, or they were under Iran's direct control. Clouding the picture further were reports indicating that some Special Groups were given leeway by al Sadr to attack the Coalition and the ISF.

This arrangement gave him 'plausible deniability' while he manoeuvred with the Americans and the Iraqi government for more say in the political process.

In March 2008, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki at the behest of General Petraeus undertook a fact-finding tour of Basrah in order to assess the extent that JAM, including those elements under Iran's sway, and various criminal elements controlled this strategically important city. So perturbed was al-Maliki by what he saw, he mobilised four Iraqi Army brigades, against the advice of Petraeus and without consulting the senior leadership of the Iraqi Army. On 26 March 2008, he personally led Operation Charge of the Knights, whose aim was to regain control of Basrah.

Basrah, a primarily Shi'a city of more than one million people, is the capital of the oil rich al Basrah province. Strategically crucial, it is Iraq's major port and a significant oil refining centre. The nearby port of Umm Qasr provides Iraq's only deep water access. It had become evident that the British, along with the local ISF command had insufficient combat power to control the city and maintain law and order.

The operation's timing could not have been worse for the Coalition, as US Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and Petraeus were fully engaged in preparations for their report to Congress in April 2008. In addition, the al-Maliki initiative had the impact of ameliorating the fractious relationship that the mainstream JAM had with many of the Special Groups. Mainstream JAM could not stand by as their Special Group brothers were dying in the conflict.

Also exacerbating the situation was the fact that the British, who were responsible for security in al Basrah province, were sidelined. In December 2007, their troops were relocated into the international airport outside of the city, and postured for a complete withdrawal from Iraq. They had effectively ceded control of the city to JAM. A report in *The London Times* indicated that British intelligence had negotiated a rapprochement with JAM. British troops could not enter the city without the express permission of the then Defence Secretary, Des Browne. The delay in the British response to the military action meant that significant numbers of American troops had to be redeployed to assist the ISF control the violence.

A by-product of the operation in Basrah was activation of Sadr City JAM Special Groups that resulted in an unprecedented number of mortar and rocket attacks against Baghdad's International Zone (IZ), which contained the Iraqi parliament and most government ministries as well as embassies and key Coalition military installations. JAM's aim was to directly pressure the Iraqi government and the Coalition leadership into ceasing operations in Basrah. The sustained indirect fire over a period of more than three weeks had a deleterious impact on the government of Iraq's ability to govern and ratcheted up political pressure on al Maliki to negotiate with al Sadr.

A lack of planning and understanding of the extent of the disposition of the forces arrayed against him ensured that al-Maliki's operation quickly faltered.

Exacerbating the situation was the fact that a large number of the troops selected by him were from newly raised brigades with little or no combat experience. A humiliating and politically damaging rout, as well as a subsequent humanitarian disaster would have been the inevitable outcome but for Coalition intervention.

In late March, during the daily Battle Updates and Assessments (BUAs), as well as in a meeting with the Australian HoM, at which I was present, General Petraeus made it clear that MNF-I would not let the Iraqis fail in Basrah. He also indicated that the Iraqi operation presented an excellent opportunity to gain political capital for al Maliki, regain control of the city, and reduce Iranian influence. He also made it clear that MNF-I operations would continue unabated against AQI in Mosul, as he was concerned that the conflict in Basrah would be seen by them as an opportunity to regain the offensive against a distracted Coalition.

The Coalition plan that MNF-I crafted and executed on the fly, I put to you is very much a market-state or if you like, an information-age operation. Military Transition Teams (MiTTs), which were essentially military adviser teams, were rapidly deployed by the Americans, and eventually the British, to stiffen the resolve of the Iraqi forces in contact with well-entrenched JAM militias in Basrah. Battlefield enablers, that is, Coalition artillery, warplanes, helicopters, C2 systems, and logistics units were re-assigned to support the Iraqi operation. An American two-star general, with supporting headquarters staff, provided the Iraqis in Basrah with a planning capability.

In addition and most importantly, a humanitarian assistance (HA) operation commenced almost immediately. Operation Charge of the Knights had caused the city's markets, which were the main source of food for most of the population, to close indefinitely; and there were fears that the city's water supply would rapidly degrade. Petraeus ensured that the Iraqi Army was the 'face' of the HA operation and appeared to have the lead in the kinetic parts of the campaign. The MiTT teams ensured that achievable objectives were identified by Iraqi commanders, and proper operational planning occurred. Systematic cordon and search missions gradually enabled the ISF and Coalition forces to gain control of previously JAM occupied areas of Basrah. Meanwhile, Petraeus and Crocker worked overtime to cajole key federal political figures to rally around al-Maliki and make public statements of support — something they were unwilling to do in the early stages of the operation.

Carefully crafted media releases reinforced the message that Operation Charge of the Knights was a bold Iraqi initiative whose aims were to free the citizens of Basrah from the grip of JAM Special Groups and criminal gangs and reimpose the rule of law. The releases were careful to delineate between the 'criminal JAM Special Groups' and al Sadr's mainstream JAM membership.

Continued Page 12

Victoria's Military History and Heritage

Major General Sir Alexander Bruce Tulloch, KCB, CMG

Founder of the United Service Institution of Victoria

By Colonel Marcus Fielding

Alexander Bruce Tulloch was born on 2 September 1838 and educated at Sandhurst.

Tulloch joined the 1st Royal Scots as an ensign in May 1855. He became a lieutenant of that regiment in 1857; a captain in the 96th Foot in 1864; a captain in the 69th Foot in 1866; brevet-major in 1877; and major in the Welsh Regiment in 1881. Over this period he served in the Crimea, India and China.

As a major in the early 1880's he worked in the nascent Intelligence Bureau of the War Office, being sent on missions to Belgium, Crete and elsewhere.

In 1882, as the British became increasingly concerned about the security of the Suez Canal – a critical choke point in their global empire, the then forty-four-year-old Major Tulloch offered his services to Lieutenant-General Sir Garnet Wolseley.

Tulloch reminded Wolseley of the plan of attack he had contributed to the 1876 Report on Egypt and volunteered to 'combine business and pleasure' in a snipe-shooting holiday to Egypt. His offer was accepted.

The mission was politically delicate since Gladstone, Liberal prime minister since 1880, had set himself firmly against intervention in Egypt, but Wolseley was determined the army should be ready for all eventualities including war.

Tulloch investigated the coastal defences at Alexandria and Damietta, gathered information on the Suez Canal, Egyptian army and its supply base, and reconnoitred the ground at Tel El Kebir in the desert east of Cairo, where the decisive battle of the Second Anglo-Egyptian War would later be fought.

Tulloch's reports contained recommendations as to how to make quick work of things in the event of hostilities. Both sabotage and special operations are considered. 'It is said that it would take no great amount of Bucksheesh [sic] to have the principal magazine, that at Tourra, exploded,' he writes coolly to Colonel East on 17 February from Shepherd's Hotel in Cairo.

From Alexandria, in a letter dated 5 March, he describes in detail the state of the coastal defences. For the destruction of one of the batteries, Fort Meiks, he suggests, 'a boat landing might be effected just west of the fort within 100 yards and the assailants might scramble in to the place on the flank where the wall has fallen down.'



Following the bombardment of Alexandria on 11 July 1882 a 40,000 strong British Expeditionary Force under Wolseley's command landed in Egypt. Appropriately enough, Tulloch led the successful landing party. As a result of the action, he was promoted lieutenant colonel and recommended for the Victoria Cross. In lieu, and given the nature of his work, Tulloch was awarded the Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (CMG) for extraordinary or important non-military service in a foreign country.

Following a series of actions, including a significant battle at Tel El Kebir the British Expeditionary Force emerged victorious and then occupied Egypt.

In 1883 Tulloch was promoted to lieutenant colonel and commanded the Welsh Regiment, seeing service in South Africa and Egypt. He was promoted to colonel in 1886, and then placed on half-pay in 1888.

On 20 September 1889 Tulloch was appointed Commandant of the Victorian Military Forces, with the local rank of Major General.

In this capacity he also acted as military adviser to the Australian colonies. In 1892 he presided over the commission appointed by the New South Wales Government to inquire into the military condition of that colony.

Tulloch was instrumental in getting a United Service Home built for specially deserving old soldiers and sailors near Geelong.

In 1890 Tulloch formed the United Service Institution of Victoria based on the USI in London of which he was a member.

As the 1890s depression had a severe effect on the 'beautiful little army' he had built up, Tulloch tendered his resignation so that the Victorian Government could hire a less expensive Commandant.

Continued Page 10

MAJGEN Tulloch continued

When he left Melbourne in 1894 he felt that he was almost becoming an Australian and was particularly gratified by the achievements of his 'Australian boys' in the Boer War.

Tulloch was awarded the Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB) in 1902.

Tulloch was a prolific writer and wrote numerous articles and two books on military matters. His first book *Recollections of Forty Years of Service* was published in 1903 (William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London). Tulloch's memoirs of the Egyptian Campaign in this book sparked immediate controversy. The Times Literary Supplement reviewer strongly criticized its author: 'future agents of the department will not find their work any easier if their predecessors are not habitually reticent to the last degree as to every detail of their employment.'

Tulloch had unquestionably broken the Code of Silence, a founding tenet of the Intelligence Bureau's charter. His chapters on the Egypt Campaign relate in the kind of detail entirely absent from other contemporary memoirs - the undercover missions behind enemy lines, counter-espionage operations, press disinformation techniques, and the use of bribery and spies that made up the work of the Special Service officers.

Yet it was Tulloch's intelligence reports from Egypt, printed and distributed to the French and British cabinets in June 1882, which perhaps had the greatest impact. With precision he dissects Egypt's defence establishment and predicts a swift occupation with the minimum of casualties.

Undoubtedly his confidence helped ministers to convince Gladstone to execute one of the great U-turns of nineteenth-century politics, and created the opportunity for what one military historian called 'the most brilliantly devised and executed campaign of the century'.

Tulloch's second, and less controversial, book *A Soldier's Sailing* was published in 1912 (Jarrod, London) describes the numerous voyages and travels that he undertook during his military career and has become renowned as a classic. It has been republished several times and is widely available on-line.

Tulloch died in his native England in 1920 at age 82. His two books are available in the RUSI VIC Library.



Join us in Ballarat for Military History and Heritage Week 2014

In the lead-up to the Gallipoli Centenary Victoria's third Military History and Heritage Week will get underway throughout the State between Saturday 19 and Sunday 27 April 2014.

Military History and Heritage Week comprises a series of coordinated military history and heritage themed events and activities across a range of locations and communities. The City of Ballarat was selected as the focal point for 2014.

Military History and Heritage Week runs across the Easter long-weekend (18 to 21 April), includes Anzac Day on Friday 25 April 2014 and concludes on Sunday 27 April 2014.

The historical theme for Military History and Heritage Week Ballarat is *From Eureka to 1914*. The Week will comprise a series of events and activities including:

- Anzac Day Parade: The Biggest Light Horse Parade in Victoria since WWI.
- Exhibition at the Gold Museum: *Citizen Soldiers and Sailors*.
- Photographic exhibition at the Museum of Australian Democracy: *Maoris and Dervishes, Boxers and Boers*.
- One-day Conference at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute: *The Science of War: Advances in Military Technology to 1914*.
- Colonial Militaria and Genealogy Fair at the Ballarat Mining Exchange.
- Colonial Naval and Military Charity Gala Ball at Sovereign Hill.
- Two-day International Conference at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute: *1914: The Fateful Year*.
- Commemoration for the 12th and 40th Regiments.
- Old Cemetery Tours: *Volunteers and Militia (1855-1914)*.
- Historical Re-Enactments: *Imperial Troopers, Colonial Volunteers and the Traps*.
- Film Festival at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute: *Before the Anzac Dawn – Conflicts to 1914*.
- Ballarat Military History and Heritage Walks.

For more information see the Military History and Heritage Victoria Inc. website at www.mhvh.org.au

Vale

Brigadier William Harold (Mac) Grant OAM RFD



Mac Grant passed away in his sleep in the early morning of Monday 10 June 2013 at Oak Towers Nursing Home.

His military career began when he enlisted in 30 BN The NSW Scottish Regiment in September 1940. After completing a 90 day training camp at Greta NSW he enlisted in 1 Heavy Bde RAA of the Permanent Military Force. He transferred from the PMF to the AIF in October 1941 under his mother's maiden name "McArthur". He has been called "Mac" ever since.

He served in New Guinea in 1942/43 with 2/5 Indep Coy (later 2/5 Cdo Sqn). He was commissioned in January 1944. He was posted to 2/12 Cdo Sqn in 9 Aust Div and took part in the North Borneo campaign and liberation of Sarawak.

On 23 November 1946, Mac married Joan Irene Brown, of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service whom he had met on leave in Australia. Mac served with the occupation forces in Japan as a member of 66 Inf Bn and HQ 34 Inf Bde. On his return to Australia in 1949 he was given a regular commission and posted as OC / Instructor AUSTMIT (Australian Methods of Instruction Team). He remained with AUSTMIT until the end of 1951 when he attended Staff College Queenscliff. After graduating from Staff College he spent a brief period with HQ 5 Inf Bde in Sydney and was then posted to Korea/Japan where he served as a company commander with 3 RAR, a general staff officer on HQ1 Commonwealth Division and 2IC of 1 Commonwealth Division Battle School.

In early 1955, he was appointed to raise and command 1 Commando Coy (later 1 INF BN (Cdo) The City of Sydney's own Regiment). He remained in command of that unit until May 1959 during which time he was seconded to the Royal Marine Commandos in UK for seven months for specialist training. In 1958 he was attached for several weeks to 21 SAS in what is now West Malaysia.

In May 1959, he was seconded to the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) and almost immediately went overseas for seven months for a series of attachments in London and Washington.

With his extensive commando background, Mac now became something of a specialist in guerilla warfare and special operations. He conducted training courses for selected members of the Australian Defence Force and made several visits to Singapore where, in conjunction with the British, he trained Indonesian and Vietnamese defence and police personnel. Mac resigned from the ARA in June 1961 to accept a civilian appointment with ASIS.

He joined the CMF (now the Army Reserve) after leaving the ARA. He was posted as Deputy CO to COL George Warfe in 1 RVR (Pentropic), CO 6 RVR, Commanding Officer Training Group and Commander 4 Task Force. He was promoted to colonel in 1967.

In his civilian capacity he filled a variety of appointments in Australia with ASIS and visited South Vietnam in several occasions in 1962-63 to observe AATTV and US Special Forces. In company with Brigadier Ted Serong, he visited US Special Forces outposts at Ban Me Thuot, Nha Trang, A Chau, Khe Sanh, Hue and Duk Me. During this period, Mac continued to conduct training courses for selected ADF personnel posted to South Vietnam.

He was attached to HQ British Forces in Hong Kong from 1967 to early 1971. Joan and Mac returned to Australia in January 1971 and Mac resumed his duties with ASIS in Victoria Barracks. In the CMF, he was promoted to brigadier and appointed to command Southern Command Training Group and then Commander Task Force in 1973 and was made aide-de-camp to Her Majesty the Queen in 1975. He retired from the army in 1977.

Following language training at Point Cook, Mac was posted by ASIS to serve as a counsellor with the Australian Embassy in Jakarta from 1977-79. He travelled widely within Indonesia, and liaised with senior Indonesian officers, including General Benny Moerdoni, Commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces.

In 1984 Mac retired from ASIS, and in 1985 Joan had a debilitating stroke. Mac cared for her from then until her death in 2000 which devastated him having already lost their son Peter in 1976.

He was Honorary Colonel of the Royal Victoria Regiment from 1980-84 and has been patron of 1 Commando Association since its inception in 1976 and joint patron of the Australian Commando Association. He was appointed Regimental Colonel of 1st Commando Regiment in August 1990.

In 1991 he became President of the United Service Institute of Victoria and presided over the organisation gaining its 'Royal' prefix in 1995. From October 1993 to September 1996, he was National President of the RUSI of Australia. He retired as President of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria on 31 December 1999.

Excerpts from Australian Commando Association's Book of Remembrance and MAJGEN Greg Melick's Eulogy at Mac's funeral.

Petraeus maintained throughout the campaign that al Sadr was an important player in Iraq's political future and the operation was not about reducing his political influence.

As Petraeus predicted, Operation Charge of the Knights did not fail, and throughout April and May, the Iraqi government strengthened its grip on Basrah. In addition, they commenced much-needed re-construction to bolster the gains made, recruited significant numbers of Basrah men for the ISF, and raised 'neighbourhood watch' groups; based on the successful Sons of Iraq model used in Sunni dominated areas. In addition, Maliki and his government improved their stocks with the people of Iraq and the ISF, despite their shaky start, improved their credibility.

A Market-State Military Operation

The 'Battle for Basrah' is, I posit, an excellent example of the market-state's agile, nuanced and subtle mode of warfare. A potential catastrophe became a springboard for a series of manoeuvres that resulted in the solidification of the indigenous government's grip on power. It reduced a major rival's sway in a strategically important city and shaped circumstances to pave the way for a major offensive against JAM in its Baghdad stronghold of Sadr City. Petraeus saw opportunity in a crisis and moved with decisiveness and agility to seize it. His primary aim of enhancing the security of the people of Basrah was in perfect alignment with his strategic aim of providing a window of relative security for the Iraqi people so that their political leaders could establish consensual governance.

The scheme of manoeuvre for the campaign included political, humanitarian and kinetic lines of operation. Moreover, it was a true information operation with its key objective being the enhancement of al-Maliki's political standing by improving the security of the people of Basrah. Subordinate objectives were the reduction of both Muqtada al Sadr and Iran's influence in the southern capital as well as the re-establishment of law and order. The Coalition's humanitarian and kinetic operations were launched simultaneously with the Iraqi Army as the 'face' of the former and conducting the actual hand-to-hand fighting in the latter. The Iraqi Army was 'enabled' by Coalition planning and key battlefield capabilities but was not reliant on its combat units. The critical piece was the presence of MiTTs, initially American and then later British, embedded in Iraqi units and formations. In addition to providing Iraqi commanders with access to force multipliers such as ISTAR, logistics, precision weapons delivered by aircraft and artillery and the MiTTs assisted with tactical planning.

The local and international media were artfully manipulated to portray al-Maliki as a decisive leader who was willing to confront JAM, in particular its so-called 'Iranian backed Special Group criminal' elements and criminal gangs, in order to re-establish the rule of law in Basrah. Much was made of the Iraqi Army's ability to

mobilise over a division's worth of troops and then launch a major offensive within a two to three day period. Coalition leaders suggested that it demonstrated the Iraqi Army's growing professionalism. The initial poor performance of many ISF units, particularly the police, tended to be glossed-over or downplayed. The overall message was simple and powerful, the Iraqi government and by association the ISF, cared about the local people's wellbeing. Likewise, as the ISF, under Coalition guidance, became more systematic in its operational approach, and thus increasingly successful in clearing militia elements from former strongholds within the city. MNF-I's media messaging emphasised that this was an ISF-led mission with only 'minimal' Coalition input and that the successes achieved were indication of increasing Iraqi professionalism. Six months later MNF-I's information operation appeared to have worked so well that Nouri al-Maliki himself was seemingly convinced that Knights Charge was an Iraqi only operation! No mention was made of the Coalition's role in subsequent media interviews. It was described thus in the *Washington Times*:

Knights Charge was a carefully integrated political-military operation. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki made it clear Knights Charge was planned and executed by the Iraqis themselves. Mr al-Maliki and his government know they are waging a political war, and Knights Charge was a military operation with major political objectives. One was to further isolate Muqtada al-Sadr and his Shia thugs. Another key political objective was to solidify Mr. al-Maliki's nationalist credentials.⁴

Conclusion

Petraeus demonstrated his understanding that his key aim was the security of Iraqi people, which helped enhance the Iraqi government and its security forces' credibility with the people. The information campaign played to multiple audiences, including; American elite and public opinion, which was critical given the Congressional hearing that Crocker and Petraeus were to attend in April 2008; Iraqi public and elite opinion; and the broader Muslim world. In addition, Petraeus saw an opportunity to reduce JAM and Iranian influence in Basrah and roll back JAM's control of Sadr city. He understood too, that al Qaeda in Iraq would seek to exploit the opportunity created and he took steps to prevent this eventuality.

The Iraq war has been a harsh learning experience for the United States military. It discovered that its myopic focus on conventional operations had left it ill prepared for the complex post-invasion insurgency in which it found itself. By the time General Petraeus confronted the al-Maliki induced conflict against JAM, the American military was well on the pathway to becoming an agile information-age organisation. In Basrah, it demonstrated both its adeptness in counter insurgency operations and way in which military forces of market-states must perform in the complex conflicts of the new era.

4 Austin Bay, 'The Iraqi-US Agreement', *The Washington Times* Website, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/nov/21/the-iraqi-us-agreement/>, 21 November 2008. [Accessed 17 July 2009]

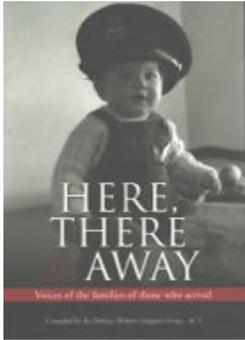
Book Review

Annette Sadler, Judy Rule and Dawn Laing for the Defence Widows Support Group, ACT

Here, There and Away: Voices of the Families of Those Who Served

Big Sky Publishing, Paperback, 250 pages

2011 was the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Defence Widows Support Group and saw a project launched to collect the stories of the partners of former defence personnel. This book is subtitled 'Voices of the families of those who served' but eventually saw contributions from all family members, including service personnel themselves. It contains personal anecdotes that extend from a few paragraphs up to 1000 words in length covering the period from WW1 to the recent past.



This publication is certainly not one pitched at a solely female readership. Perhaps the males among us should pause for a moment to reflect on the extreme anxiety some of our ladies experienced prior to their first involvement in military life or mess functions in particular. There are many interesting historical background facts revealed as anecdotes are placed in context. The brevity of contributions enable the reader to select the approach to

reading this book. A comprehensive table of contents lists articles by the subject covered, and when read sequentially, enable comparisons to be made between similar situations and experiences. Alternatively, because there is no continuity involved, the reader can readily skip from one section to another and then backtrack at a later reading. Whilst there are no entries that involve any tactical or strategic aspect of service activities, a most comprehensive glossary has been provided to expand acronyms and commonly-used terms.

The contributions range from extremely hilarious to most sobering - the Artillery officer ostracised after an evening when he was innocently being introduced by a young and naive Army wife as 'being slightly deaf because he had "gunner ear"'; and the plane load of young Vietnamese orphanage babies being escorted back to Australia by a few dedicated service wives. The reader is introduced to how service life (and coincidence) affected the eventual selection of a life-long partner, the lottery of accommodation and the traumas that often unfolded after moving in - from growing gaps between uncovered floorboards, the discovery of the new Westminster carpet and how often it could be lifted and remodelled for one's next abode, to the moaning pipes in a Singapore quarter that years later offered up a python that had become too large to extricate itself.

There are a number of stories of the wonderful times spent by those who accompanied their spouse to an overseas theatre or to a military school or establishment while a prolonged training course was undertaken. Naturally there is considerable coverage given to the single-parent home where 'grass widows' of necessity had to fill the roles of both mother and father, as well as having to manage all the financial and maintenance matters that we all know come as part of day-to-day living. The level of available support for the families of service personnel while they were absent moves from non-existent, where women took their own initiatives and formed wives or support groups, to the much-improved situation today where the DVA, RSL and Legacy are at the forefront of family support.

No one has ducked for cover. There are some very brave and frank women who have pulled no punches in elaborating on the impact that PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) has had upon their lives and their homes when their partner has returned from service. While not labelled as PTSD, these are chronicled about servicemen from WW1 to recent times.

This book is a new approach to recording the lives and times that have involved those in the services. Despite its honesty and frankness, it is not an unnerving read - my WW2-widowed mother enjoyed an hour browsing through its various sections. All credit to its hard-working compilers!

Neville Taylor

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BOER WAR DAY 2013

Under a threatening sky on Sunday 26th May, the descendants of Boer War participants gathered at the Shrine of Remembrance with ample support from the Defence and public communities to honour our first military volunteers.

The March was led by a mounted contingent in period dress of Australian Light-horsemen, followed by descendants led by the Police Pipe Band. 'The Defence of the Eland River Post, 4 – 16 August 1900' was the topic of the address given by MAJGEN Jim Barry, AM, MBE, RFD, ED.

The Elands River Post camp was 200 yards square, on top of a slate outcrop, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile east of the river, with clear fields of fire all round and two significant outposts to protect the water point. At about 0200 hours on 4 August 1900, 2-2,500 Boers surrounded the Post supported by five 12 & 15 Pounder captured British guns, three "pom-pom" guns (firing automatic, 1-pound shells) and one Maxim machine gun. In excess of 1500 shells fell on the Post on the first day alone!

Of the 505 Australian, Rhodesian and native personnel: - 5 were Killed (KIA), 10 died of wounds and 37 were wounded (WIA). Also 21 natives suffered: 4 KIA & 17 WIA; a total of 73 casualties for the 12-day siege. Unfortunately none of the horses, sheep or goats survived the bombardment. The Post was finally relieved on the third attempt by a British-led column. The bravery of those involved was not lost on the Boers. Jan Smuts, later Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, wrote "Never in the course of this war did a besieged force endure such sufferings, but they stood their ground with magnificent courage. All honour is due to those heroes who in the hour of trial rose nobly to the occasion."



Proceedings were concluded by a three-gun salute by the Historical Re-enactment Society of Australia using a replica of a Boer War cannon.

Neville Taylor

Library Notes

books, military pamphlets and maps to our library? I'd also like to thank those who have facilitated donations by suggesting us to people that had not previously known of our existence. One such donation – from a deceased estate – brought us 150 titles that were not in our collection and they were all of good quality

Two Rare Book Librarians – one from the State Library of Victoria and the other from the Matheson Library at Monash University - have recently had a conducted tour of the library. They were both impressed by the depth of our holdings, the methodical cataloguing and the very good state of its presentation and storage. Another tribute to our volunteers! Several similar visits by individuals and groups are planned.

I know some of us are contemplating tours of First World War battlefields and many more will do so on the forthcoming 100th anniversaries. Here are some specific guidebook references that may help – many of them are in our collection:

Peter Pederson & Chris Roberts, *Anzacs on the Western Front: the Australian War Memorial Battlefield Guide*, Milton Qld: John Wiley, 2012.

One of the best battlefield guides ever produced, by two of Australia's most talented military historians. It is tailor-made for the Australian market. It has historical summaries, potted biographies, maps, explanations of the battles, historical black & white and contemporary colour photos. Don't go without it!

Lieutenant Colonel Glen Wahlert, *Exploring Gallipoli: an Australian Army Battlefield Guide [Australian Army Campaign Series -4]*. Canberra: Army History Unit, 2008

A very well produced guide (it is probably the cheapest too!) with good narrative, illustrations and maps and travel hints that are very useful (such as where to get internet access on the peninsula).

Matt McLachlan, *Gallipoli: the Battlefield Guide*, Sydney: Hachette Australia, 2010

Phil Taylor & Pam Cupper, *Gallipoli: A Battlefield Guide*, Kenthurst NSW; Kangaroo Press, 1989

I prefer the second of these titles because the maps are better and it has better descriptions of the key places on the peninsula.

Peter Stanley, *A Stout Pair of Boots: a Guide to Exploring Australia's Battlefields*, Crows Nest NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2008

Not so much a guide to particular battles but a guide to how to get the most from your visit by sound preparation. Another good book from a fine historian.

Garrie Hutchinson, *Pilgrimage: a Traveller's Guide to Australia's Battlefields*, Melbourne: Black Inc, 2006

Covers all but the last Australian conflicts. A good read beforehand – it may be too large to take with you!

Major & Mrs Holt, *Battlefield Guide to Gallipoli*, Barnsley UK: Leo Cooper, 2000

Major & Mrs Holt, *Battle Map of Gallipoli*, 2000

Probably the most popular British guide to the battles.

Kilavuz harita Gelibolu Yarimadasi Tarihi Milli Parki (Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park Guidemap), 3rd edition, 2005

Bilingual (English & Turkish) comprehensive map available at Kabatepe Information Centre & more useful than the Holt map.

Carl Shilleto & Mike Tolhurst, *A Traveller's Guide to D-Day and the Battle for Normandy*, Northampton MA: Interlink Publishing 2011

Brief and to the point with good maps and first-hand accounts.

Chuck Thompson, *The 25 Best World War II Sites Pacific Theater*, San Francisco: Greenline Publications, 2002

One of the few guides to this area in the Second World War with an understandable US bias. It is particularly good on how to access the sites.

Mike O'Brien



Honorary Librarian Brian Surtees explains the journals collection to the Governor



The Angry Sky
One Day Conference
Australia's Air War over Europe
1939-1945
11 November 2013
RAAF Museum, Point Cook, Victoria
Book now, www.mhhv.org.au